

Dr. Sharpe as the true *Grus antigone* of Linnæus, but, in Dr. Blanford's opinion, this name had been founded on Edwards's description of the Greater Indian Crane (Nat. Hist. Birds, i. p. 45, pl. 45), which was said to have "the neck very long, covered in the upper parts with white feathers, which gradually become ash-coloured towards its bottom." This, Dr. Blanford contended, could only apply to the Indian bird, and he therefore proposed the name of *Grus (Antigone) sharpii* for the dark-coloured Burmese form, which had no white on the neck. The characters of the two species had been clearly given by Dr. Sharpe in the twenty-third volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' pp. 263, 264.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON continued his narrative of his recent expedition to Kolguev and Novaya Zemlya, and exhibited specimens of the downy nestlings of Bewick's Swan, the Bean Goose, Common Eider, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Dunlin, and Temminck's Stint. He also brought for exhibition a beautiful series of the eggs of Brünnich's Guillemot.

An interesting discussion ensued on Mr. Pearson's paper, in which Admiral Markham, Mr. Howard Saunders, Mr. Selater, and others took part.

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Andersen on Diomedea melanophrys in the Færoes.*

[*Diomedea melanophrys*, boende paa Færøerne. Af Knud Andersen. Vidensk. Medd. naturh. Kjøbenhavn, 1894, pp. 241-264, pl. v.]

Diomedea melanophrys in the Færøe Islands. By Knud Andersen. Communicated by W. Eagle Clarke, as requested. Proc. Royal Phys. Soc. of Edinburgh, vol. xiii. pp. 91-114, pls. ii. & iii. 1895.]

In these papers full details are given respecting the Albatross which was shot on Myggenæs Holm, after consorting with the Gannets there for more than 30 years. Mr. Harvie-Brown has already given some account of this bird, and of another individual of the same species killed in 80° N. lat. (Zool. 1894, p. 337).

2. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.* Nos. 15 & 16, July & October, 1895.

In No. 15 Mr. William Evans furnishes some interesting notes made during mid-winter in the Island of Bute, famed for the mildness of its climate; where, despite the exceptional conditions of last January, 91 species of birds were observed. In No. 16 Mr. Lionel W. Hinxman contributes a "Report on the Movements and Occurrences of Birds in Scotland during 1894"; Messrs. John Paterson and John Robertson supply notes on 130 species of birds found in East Renfrewshire, 73 of which are believed to have nested; and Mr. Peter Adair gives an account of the nesting of the Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) in Selkirkshire: a considerable extension of its nesting-range southward. As usual, there are many smaller but valuable notes on Scottish ornithology.

3. 'The Auk.' July and October, 1895.

Messrs. William Brewster and Frank M. Chapman lead off with an account of a visit to the island of Trinidad, where they were hospitably entertained by a cacao-planter in the high woods, and learned under his guidance more in three weeks than they would otherwise have done in as many months. The most important bird secured was *Nyctibius jamaicensis*, of which a coloured plate, from a photograph taken in life, is given. Passing over some papers of local interest, we come to some remarks by Mr. Lynds Jones on "Bird-Migration in Iowa"; followed by a very interesting account by Mr. Brewster of a remarkable winter-flight of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) in Massachusetts. Mr. Brewster succeeded in tracing the course of this migration, and two maps show the distribution of the species during the winter of 1892-93. This is a thoroughly scientific paper. Dr. Edgar A. Mearns describes a new Heron from the Colorado Desert as *Ardea virescens anthonyi*; Mr. C. C. Trowbridge gives an account of the flights of various species of Hawks in Connecticut; Major Charles Bendire contributes a paper, based on the experiences of Mr. Chase Littlejohn off the Alaskan Peninsula, on the Ancient

Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*); and Mr. Charles B. Cory describes two new species, *Hyetornis fieldi* and *Elainea cherriei*, from Santo Domingo. Mr. A. W. Anthony feels reasonably sure that he saw an example of the Fork-tailed Gull, *Xema furcatum*, off San Diego, California, so perhaps Néboux's statement that he obtained the type at Monterey may be correct; especially as examples of this bird have recently been procured by the 'Albatross' at the Cocos Islands, well to the north of the Galápagos. Mr. Chapman gives interesting proof of the wanderings of a *Diomedea exulans*, captured and labelled about 800 miles east of New Zealand, and again taken 12 days later off Juan Fernandez, 3100 miles away. Two more European Wigeons (*Mareca penelope*) are recorded in Indiana by Mr. Ruthven Deane.

The October number begins with a paper on *Æstrelata fisheri* by Mr. Ridgway, illustrated by a coloured plate, and this very rare bird is compared with *Æ. defilippiana*. Mr. Anthony makes two new subspecies: *Colaptes chrysoides brunnescens*, from Cape St. Lucas and Arizona, and *Passerella ilica stephensi*, from the mountains of Southern California. Mr. Chas. W. Richmond describes three new species obtained by Lieut. Wirt Robinson from the island of Margarita, off Venezuela, namely *Amazilia aliciae*, *Doleromyia pallida*, and *Cardinalis robinsoni*. Yet again new subspecies of Californian birds, *Callipepla gambeli deserticola* and *Speotyto cunicularia obscura*, are described by Mr. F. Stephens. Mr. Anthony's researches off San Diego have resulted in the acquisition of a small series of *Oceanodroma socorroensis*, a Petrel hitherto known only from the type taken at Socorro Island by C. H. Townsend.

4. *Berlepsch on a new Phœnicophaes and a new Spilornis.*

[Descriptions of two new Species of the Genera *Phœnicophaes* and *Spilornis*, with a note on *Oriolus consobrinus*. By Hans, Graf v. Berlepsch. *Novitates Zool.* ii. p. 70.]

Phœnicophaes microrhinus is the Bornean form of *P. erythrognathus*, and *Spilornis salvadorii* replaces *S. pallidus* (of Borneo) in Nias. The supposed male of *Oriolus consobrinus*, Ramsay, from N.E. Borneo is described.

5. *Blanford's 'Birds of British India.'*

[The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. Blanford. Birds: vol. iii. By W. T. Blanford, F.R.S. 8vo. Pp. i-xiv, 1-450. London: Taylor & Francis, 1895.]

The present volume of the Fauna of British India takes up the subject where it was left by Mr. Oates (*cf.* 'The Ibis,' 1892, p. 283). We have had to wait some years for it, but, like all Mr. Blanford's work, it is well and carefully prepared. It contains the Eurylæmi, Pici, Zygodactyli, Anisodactyli, Macrochires, Coccyges, Psittaci, Striges, and Accipitres. A fourth volume, of which "a considerable portion is written," will complete this most useful work, which will, of course, for the future, form the groundwork of all ornithological investigations in British India.

We are pleased to see that Mr. Blanford (see footnote p. 164) supports our refusal to use "*Micropus*" for the Swifts instead of "*Cypselus*," and is otherwise generally orthodox in his nomenclature.

6. *Büttikofer on certain Paradise-birds.*

[Einige Bemerkungen über neu angekommene Paradiesvögel. Von J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xvi. p. 36.]

Mr. Büttikofer gives us remarks on some specimens of Paradise-birds recently received by the Leyden Museum from Goenong Tobi, in North-west New Guinea. These consist of an adult male of *Amblyornis inornata*, an adult male of the magnificent new form *Pteridophora alberti*, a peculiarly coloured specimen of *Craspedophora magnifica*, and four male examples of *Parotia carolæ*. Of the last two are adult, and agree generally with Dr. Meyer's description of this remarkable bird, though certain discrepancies are pointed out, and the two others are young. The young plumage is fully described.

7. *Dubois on the Birds of Belgium.*

[Faune des Vertébrés de la Belgique. Par Alphonse Dubois. Série des Oiseaux. Tome ii. (1887-94). Royal 8vo. Bruxelles, 1894.]

We regret the unavoidable delay in noticing the second

and concluding portion of Dr. Dubois' large and compendious work: the first volume of which was reviewed in 'The Ibis' for 1888. The systematic arrangement continues with the Pigeons, the Gallinaceous birds (inclusive of the Sand-Grouse), the Bustards, Plovers, Sandpipers, and Rails; then comes the Crane, followed by the Herons, Storks, &c.; next, the Anatidæ; then the Pelecanidæ; succeeded by the Laridæ, the Petrels, the Auks, Divers, and Grebes. This is, of course, very old-fashioned. We are surprised to see that in the notice of the earlier irruptions of *Syrhaptus paradoxus* no mention is made of its occurrences in England and in the south-east of France in 1859. From the list of countries in which *Tetrao tetrix* is found, Switzerland is accidentally omitted; but we do not wish to search for slips in a work of such magnitude. In its 736 pages there is an enormous amount of valuable information, and the whole book is a monument of the author's research; while the coloured maps, illustrating the geographical distribution of each species during the breeding-season and during the winter, show signs of great pains having been taken. The species recorded for Belgium in the body of the work are 318 in number; to which are added in the Appendix *Nisus bonelli*, *Cypselus melba*, *Parus cæruleus* var. *pleskii*, *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*, and *Cursorius gallicus*: raising the total to 323 species and subspecies. We congratulate Dr. Dubois upon the completion of this section of his great work on the Belgian Fauna.

8. Dwight on the Ipswich Sparrow.

[The Ipswich Sparrow (*Anmodramus princeps*, Maynard) and its Summer Home. By Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M.D. Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. No. ii. 4to. Cambridge, Mass., 1895.]

Discovered among the sand-hills of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1868, no clue was obtained to the nesting-place of this species until 1884, when an example of the bird was obtained on Sable Island, Nova Scotia. Dr. Dwight visited that desolate spot in 1894, obtained the eggs, and has

described the bird, its customs, and its habitat in some 54 pages. There is a coloured frontispiece and a full bibliography.

9. Gätke's '*Heligoland*.' (English translation.)

[*Heligoland as an Ornithological Observatory: the Result of Fifty Years' Experience.* By Heinrich Gätke. Translated by Rudolf Rosenstock, M.A. Oxon. Royal 8vo. Edinburgh, 1895: David Douglas.]

Most ornithological books of the present day fall under one of two heads. In the first class, seemingly, the writer conceives it to be his mission to write a book, and judges that one bearing upon birds will best serve his turn: these are the books written in the author's or publisher's interests, and their name is legion. The second class is a very much smaller one, written by men (not usually young) who are willing slaves to our pet science, at which they have been working lovingly for years, and whose hope and object it is to add a modest stone to the edifice of knowledge. And when we meet with one of the last, we feel under a personal obligation to the author. Herr Gätke's book belongs to the second category.

The author of this volume is decidedly at his best when giving us the fruits of his own experience, rather than when theorizing; but there is enough of real information to make this a book of reference. The best chapters are:—
i. A concise *résumé* of the phases of Migration in Heligoland. ii. "The Direction of the Migration Flight," wherein, as those who have studied the subject would expect, he suggests that most species have their own line of flight, more or less. Herr Gätke in this chapter, and all through the book, hardly seems to take into consideration the cyclonic nature of most winds, but appears to treat them all as blowing in a direct line: a theory not supported by a study of weather charts, which show the same wind striking different places, from different points, at the same time. Chap. v. ("Meteorology of Migration") is excellent throughout and full of information. Chap. viii. ("What guides Birds during their Migration") is more theoretical and less helpful. But,

given the facts that the young birds in many (not all) cases are the first to move in the autumn, it is difficult to suppose that birds are guided, especially at night, by anything but that sense of locality and direction with which we are so familiar in the homing-pigeon, and which human races lose in proportion to their civilization. We have, however, noticed that the young birds in autumn are generally accompanied, or even preceded, by a sprinkling of adults, which have presumably lost their mates or failed to pair. In chap. x., relating to colour-changes in plumage without a moult, we have perhaps the most valuable chapter in the book.

As to the calculated rates of flight, *e. g.*, such as that of the Bluethroat, 180 miles an hour (p. 66), and the Hooded Crow 108 (p. 68), they seem singularly inconclusive. If Herr Gätke had telegraphed to Mr. Cordeaux that a certain Hooded Crow—with a white patch on one wing or other recognizable mark—had left Heligoland at a certain hour on a certain day, and Mr. Cordeaux had been on the Lincolnshire shore to meet that individual Crow three hours later, we should then have something definite to go by. Migrating birds travel, as a rule, not in parties, but in streams. We have seen on the east coast Crows, Jackdaws, Wood-Pigeons, and Larks coming in from the sea in a continuous—though thin—stream, high up, during a whole afternoon. Which part of it would give “time”? However, criticism of details apart, this is an extremely valuable book, and every patiently accumulated storehouse of facts and observations like this helps us materially towards an ultimate knowledge of the migration of birds. The translation has been well executed. In preparing an edition for English readers, however, the sponsor (Pref., p. v) would have done better in trying to bring the information relating to England up to date by footnotes, as has been mostly done with the nomenclature. As it is, we read that the Barred Warbler “has not been met with in England up to this date” (*i. e.* 1890, the date of the German edition), whereas six specimens had then been obtained in Great Britain; that there are only two known species of *Oriolus*, viz. *O. galbula* and *O. kundoo* (p. 227), whereas vol. iii. of

Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, published in 1877, gives 33 species; that *Fringilla hornemanni* "is found as a breeding-species in Northern Iceland" (p. 394), whereas *L. linaria* is the breeding species there, *L. hornemanni* only occurring as a rare winter visitor; and that *Colymbus adamsi* "is an American species" (better circumpolar) "said to have occurred once or twice on the coast of England" (p. 572), whereas several undoubted occurrences might have been cited.

10. Godman and Salvin's '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*.'

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*: or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts CXXIII.-CXXV. 4to. London: 1895. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Parts CXXIII., CXXIV., and CXXV. of this important work have been issued since our last notice ('The Ibis,' 1895, p. 394). They contain two portions of the second volume of Aves (pp. 457-480), and carry on the subject through the Motmots and Kingfishers to the commencement of the Trogons. The term *Prionornis* is proposed in place of *Pronorhynchus*, which has been previously used in Crustacea.

11. Hamilton on the Feathers of the Moa.

[On the Feathers of a small Species of Moa (*Megalapteryx*) found in a cave at the head of the Waikaia River, with a notice of a Moa-hunter's Camping-place on the Old Man Range. By A. Hamilton. Trans. N. Zealand Inst. xxvii. p. 232.]

After mentioning previous instances of the discovery of the feathers of *Dinornis* in New Zealand, Mr. Hamilton tells us of the finding by a miner of a very complete specimen of the dried leg of a small species of Moa in a cave in one of the Wakaia gorges. The leg "still retains the dried skin and muscle, and carries a quantity of double-shafted feathers." It agrees with "Prof. Owen's specimen assigned to *Dinornis didinus* in having the metatarsus feathered." This interesting specimen will be described by Dr. T. J. Parker of Otago. Mr. Hamilton made an expedition into this district in 1894

and examined the caves, whence he obtained a large number of feathers of the same small Moa. He also discovered a "Moa-hunter's Camp," and remarks:—

"There is absolute evidence in this case of the use of the Moa as food. The quantity of bones lying by the ovens in which they were cooked, and the comparative absence of any other inducement (Wekas being the only possible prey) for hunters to visit and camp on such an inhospitable spot, all point to these being Moa-hunters' encampments, to which blocks of suitable stone have been brought from afar to serve as knives for the feast. The caves and shelters in the huge mass of mountains close at hand have furnished some of the best preserved specimens of the Moa yet found, and were, no doubt, a summer feeding-ground of the Moa, to which yearly expeditions were made."

12. *Hamilton on the Birds of Macquarie Island.*

[Notes on a Visit to Macquarie Island. By A. Hamilton. Trans. N. Zealand Inst. xxvii. p. 559.]

Mr. Hamilton visited Macquarie Island, south of New Zealand, in 1894, to study the plants and general natural history, and gives us an interesting account of it. Several pages are devoted to his notes on the birds of the island, and a list of them is given. The only land-bird is a Parrot (*Cyanorhamphus erythrotis*), now probably extinct. Four Penguins visit the island for breeding purposes—the "King-Penguin" (*Aptenodytes pennanti*), the "Royal Penguin" (*Eudyptes schlegeli*), the "Victoria Penguin" (*E. filholi*), and a Rock-hopper (*Eudyptes*). Weka Rails have been introduced, and have multiplied exceedingly.

13. *Hartert on Birds from Fergusson Island.*

[Some new and other rare Birds from Fergusson Island. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. ii. p. 61.]

Six birds are described as of special interest, from a collection made in Fergusson Island, of the D'Entrecasteaux group, by Mr. A. Meek. Among these *Cyclopsittacus virago*, *Loriculus aurantiifrons meeki*, and *Ptilopus lewisii vicinus*

are new species or subspecies from Fergusson Island. *Chalcophaps stephaniae mortoni* is a new subspecies from the Solomon Islands.

14. Hartert on a new *Prionochilus*.

[A new *Prionochilus* from the Philippines and note on an *Anthreptes*. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* ii. p. 64.]

Prionochilus inexpectatus is a new species discovered by Mr. A. Everett during his recent expedition to the Philippines, from which we regret to hear he has been obliged to return through having met with a serious accident. Specimens in the Tring Museum are from Luzon near Manila and from Mindoro.

15. Hartert on a new *Goura*.

[On a supposed new Species and some Varieties of *Goura*. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* ii. p. 67.]

Goura cinerea is a small and curiously coloured species based on a specimen found among a lot of Arfak trade-skins. The Tring Museum has also specimens of *Goura beccarii* from Humboldt Bay and German New Guinea.

16. Hartert's Notes on Humming-birds.

[Notes on Humming-birds. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* ii. p. 68.]

Mr. Hartert gives notes on *Selasphorus flammula* and other species, and describes as a new subspecies *Eriocnemis derbyi longirostris* from Bogotá.

17. Hartert on Birds from the Natuna Islands.

[List of a second Collection of Birds from the Natuna Islands. By E. Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* ii. p. 466.]

A second * collection of birds from the Natuna Islands has been received at the Tring Museum from Mr. Hose, who sent his brother there with a staff of collectors from July to

* For a notice of the first collection see *Ibis*, 1895, p. 151.

October 1894. Examples of 93 species were obtained. *Gaucalus sumatrensis difficilis* is a new subspecies from Balabac, and *Macropteryx comata major* is another from the Philippines, while there are several species additional to the former list. Mr. Hartert now concludes that the Natuna avifauna is more Bornean than—as he had previously supposed—Malaccan.

18. Hudson's 'British Birds.'

[British Birds. By W. H. Hudson, C.M.Z.S. With a chapter on Structure and Classification, by Frank E. Beddard, F.R.S. London: Longmans, 1895.]

The public appetite for books on British birds must for the present, one would think, be nearly satiated, but every one will appreciate a volume on any branch of natural history from the facile pen of Mr. W. H. Hudson. The author wisely confines his main attention to the "appearance, language, and life-habits of the species that reside permanently or for a portion of each year" in these islands; others being mentioned, but not described at length. The nomenclature and arrangement of the B. O. U. List are followed throughout, and all scientific details are avoided. Mr. Hudson has thus been able to compress his British Birds into a volume of 360 pages, which is "intended for the general reader, and especially for the young."

The volume is illustrated by eight coloured plates, taken from original drawings by Mr. Thorburn, and by 100 figures of birds by Mr. G. B. Lodge introduced into the text. Mr. Beddard has written an introductory chapter on the structure and classification of birds, which puts those branches of the subject very clearly and concisely before the reader.

19. Irby's 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar.'

[The Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar. By Lieut.-Col. L. Howard L. Irby, F.L.S., late Seventy-fourth Highlanders. Second edition. Revised and enlarged. With an Appendix containing a List of the Lepidoptera of the Neighbourhood. 4to. London, 1895. R. H. Porter, 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Col. Irby has favoured us with a copy of his new and

revised edition of 'The Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar,' which we ought to have noticed before, as it was published early last year, but it has been inadvertently passed over. The new edition is larger in size, printed in better text, and in every way a handsomer book than the former one. It is, moreover, illustrated by some beautiful full-page plates of birds drawn by Thorburn, and taken from living specimens in Lord Lilford's aviaries, which illustrate the following species of birds—the Bearded Vulture, the Blue-winged Magpie, the Black Vulture, the Golden Eagle, the White-shouldered Eagle, the Booted Eagle, the Mediterranean Peregrine, and the Andalucian Bush-Quail. There are besides some excellent lithographs of various sporting and birds'-nesting scenes, executed by Smit, and a quantity of illustrations introduced into the text, mostly from photographs taken by Major W. Verner. Col. Irby is one of our best authorities on the birds of the two districts comprised in the present volume, so that we need hardly say that the letterpress is in every respect up to the mark. It is, in fact, a pleasure to open a book so well got up, so excellently illustrated, and so thoroughly "up to date." We have no doubt that it will attain a large circulation, and trust that before another 20 years are passed a third edition will be called for.

20. *Jentink on the Birds of Holland.*

[Catalogue systématique de la Collection de feu Mr. J. P. Van Wickevoort Crommelin. Par F. A. Jentink. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Pays-Bas, tome xiv. (1894).]

In 1892 (*Ibis*, 1892, p. 352) we recorded the death of John Peter van Wickevoort Crommelin, of Haarlem, and announced that he had bequeathed his unrivalled collection of the birds of Holland to the Leyden Museum. The 14th volume of the work above cited is devoted by Dr. Jentink to a catalogue of this collection. There are 306 species included in the list; every specimen of each species, with its date and locality, being separately indicated. This is a very useful piece of work to the student of European ornithology.

21. *Lawrence's 'Valley of Kashmir.'*

[The Valley of Kashmir. By Walter R. Lawrence, I.C.S., C.I.E. London, 1895.]

He who would know anything about Kashmir cannot do better than turn to this beautifully printed and well illustrated monograph, which contains an excellent summary of our knowledge of this distant portion of the British Empire, by one who is specially qualified to treat of it. The chapter on the Fauna of Kashmir contains a list of the Birds with field-notes, arranged according to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's classification, with the nomenclature of Mr. Oates, so far as that goes: 208 species are included.

22. *Meyer on the Egg of a new Bower-bird.*

[Ueber das Ei einer unbekanntenen *Chlamydodera* von Deutsch Neu Guinea. Von A. B. Meyer. Abh. u. Ber. königl. zool. u. anthro. Mus. Dresden, 1894-95, No. 10.]

The author describes and figures the beautiful egg of a Bower-bird of the genus *Chlamydodera* which was found by a collector, A. Grabauer, on a palm-leaf near Constantinhafen in Kaiser-Wilhelm's Land, New Guinea. He proposes *C. recondita* as a name for the bird that laid the egg, but it seems to us that it will be rather difficult for future oologists to identify the layer of it!

23. *Ornis*, 1895. Parts 1-3.

[*Ornis*: Internationale Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. R. Blasius. viii. Jahrgang (1895), Hefte 1-3.]

We welcome the reappearance of our contemporary after its cessation at the end of 1891. The resumed periodical opens with a list, by Freiherr Besserer, of the birds of the neighbourhood of Dieuze, in Lothringen, or, as more familiarly known to us, Lorraine. Dr. Rudolf Blasius follows with the reports for 1891-1893 of the birds observed at the German light-houses and light-ships; and the same author gives a list of the species recorded at the light-houses of

Malta and Gozo in the years 1886-1894, the number being 288.

In Heft 3 are two papers on the Nutcracker during the autumn and winter of 1893-94: the first by Ritter Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, and relating to Austria-Hungary, while the second is by Dr. Blasius and treats of the occurrences of the bird from Russia westward. The individuals obtained appear to have belonged to the Siberian form which Dr. Blasius calls *Nucifraga caryocatactes leptorhynchus*. Freiherr von Berg contributes notes on 34 species of birds noticed in Alsace-Lorraine in 1885-1892, and his paper is furnished with a map showing the stations for observation. Dr. Blasius gives an account of a visit to San Sebastian, Guipuzcoa, with the late M. Olphe-Galliard, when they examined the collection of birds formed by Don Angel de Larinna; while two short papers on a few birds observed in the Straits of Gibraltar, and on 10 species met with at Reykjanes, Iceland, conclude the Heft.

24. Parker on the Dinornithidæ.

[On the Cranial Osteology, Classification, and Phylogeny of the *Dinornithidæ*. By T. Jeffery Parker, D.Sc., F.R.S. Trans. Zool. Soc. xiii. p. 373.]

After the labours of Owen, Lydekker, and Hutton, it might have been supposed that the subject of the Dinornithidæ had been nearly exhausted. But this is by no means the case. Lydekker and Hutton came to very different results in their recent studies of this group, one admitting four genera and 19 species, and the other seven genera and 26 species. Moreover, they were by no means in accord as regards nomenclature. Prof. Parker again has occupied himself specially with the cranial osteology of this group. Now those who have studied Huxley's work on the class of birds know how important an element is the skull in their classification, and how much better results it is likely to give than the leg-bones. There can be no doubt, therefore, that in devoting his principal attention to the comparatively

neglected cranium Prof. Parker has done well, and those who study his memoir cannot fail to be impressed with his careful work and well-drawn conclusions, which result in the proposal of the following classification of the subclass Ratitæ:—

Subclass **RATITÆ**, Merrem.

Order I. STRUTHIONES, Newton.

Fam. STRUTHIONIDÆ. Genus *Struthio*.

Order II. RHEÆ, Newton.

Fam. RHEIDÆ. Genus *Rhea*.

Order III. MEGISTANES, Newton.

Suborder 1. CASUARIFORMES, Fürbringer.

Fam. 1. CASUARIIDÆ. Genus *Casuarus*.

„ 2. DROMÆIDÆ. Genus *Dromæus*.

Suborder 2. APTERYGIFORMES, Fürbringer.

Fam. 1. DINORNITHIDÆ.

Subfam. a. Dinornithinæ. Genus *Dinornis*.

„ b. Anomapteryginæ. Genera *Pachyornis*,
Mesopteryx, *Anomapteryx**.

„ c. Emeinæ. Genus *Emeus*.

Fam. 2. APTERYGIDÆ. Genus *Apteryx*.

25. Pražák on some of the Paridæ.

[Versuch einer Monographie der palæarktischen Sumpfmeynen (*Pocile*, Kaup). Von J. P. Pražák. Ornith. Jahrb. vi. Heft 1, pp. 8-59.

Einige Notizen über die Kohl-, Hauben- und Blaumeisen. *Op. cit.* Heft 3, 1895.]

Herr Pražák has taken the Tits under his special charge, and, besides the two treatises cited above, has published a series of articles on *Parus ater* and its near allies in the 'Mittheilungen des ornithologischen Vereines in Wien' for 1894. In the first of the above papers he leads us into a perfect labyrinth of subspecies, and after trying to follow him through 59 pages, we find "to be continued." In the second paper the British and Persian Great Tits are separated as subspecies—the former under the name *Parus major newtoni*, and its Persian representative as *P. m. blanfordi*. We wish our good friends joy of their name-fellows!

* And probably *Megalapteryx*.

26. *Reichenow on new African Birds.*

[Neue afrikanische Vogelformen im Tring Museum. Von Anton Reichenow. Novit. Zool. ii. p. 159.]

Two new species of a new genus of Timeliidæ are described as *Bathmocercus vulpinus* and *B. murinus*. Both are from the Aruwimi River, Congoland. The type of *Bathmocercus* is *B. rufus*, Reichenow. *Andropadus gracilirostris liberiensis* is a new subspecies.

27. *Reichenow on the Ornithological Literature of 1890.*

[Bericht über die Leistungen in der Naturgeschichte der Vögel während des Jahres 1890. Arch. f. Nat. 1891, Heft 1 (Oct. 1895).]

Here we have an excellent report on the ornithological literature of 1890, only it is issued four years too late. That it is not necessary to delay a publication of this sort so long is manifest from the fact that the 'Zoological Record,' containing a corresponding account of the ornithological literature of 1894, was published in October 1895.

28. *Rothschild on a new Paradise-bird.*

[A new Bird of Paradise. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild. Novit. Zool. ii. p. 60.]

Astrapia splendidissima is quite worthy of its name, and, besides its striking plumage, differs in several structural points from the typical members of the genus. The type was found among a number of "trade-skins" said to have come from the foot of the Charles Louis Mountains, in Dutch New Guinea.

29. *Sharpe's Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain.*

[Allen's Naturalist's Library. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. A Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., Zoological Department, British Museum. Vol. II. London: W. H. Allen & Co., 1896.]

The second volume of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's 'Birds of Great Britain' is now before us. We have already spoken freely of the plates issued with the former volume (see 'Ibis,' 1894, p. 565), and it is hardly necessary to repeat our critical

remarks on those of the present volume, which are similar in character, though slightly better coloured. As regards the letterpress, we are quite satisfied with the plan followed in the present work and with the way in which it is carried out. But in spite of the lively style in which Dr. Sharpe has replied to our former remarks in the present volume, we are still much discontented with the nomenclature which he employs. It is certainly some alleviation that he does not insist in his Handbook on commencing Birds at the "wrong end," as he has done in some of his previous publications. In the first volume the Passeres were treated of, and now we have the Picarians, Striges, Accipitres, and others, all in familiar order, although strange names replace many of the ordinarily accepted terms of the B. O. U. We are also grateful that he does not follow our American friends in their views as to the nomenclature of the Swans and Swallows. But we see that *Micropus* is retained as the generic name of the Swifts, although it has been shown (Ibis, 1894, p. 131) to have been previously proposed (and to be now in actual use) for a genus of plants. At the same time the family is called "Cypselidæ," not "Micropodidæ." We remark also that the "Suborder Coraciæ" is translated "Picarians," whereas Nitzsch's term Picariæ was, we believe, taken from *Picus*, a Woodpecker. But the Woodpeckers are placed in another suborder! In nomenclature, therefore, we are still at variance with Dr. Sharpe. Nor do we by any means allow that our views are "old-fashioned," and that the verdict of the future, which he appeals to, will be given in his favour.

30. Stone on the Generic Term *Calliste*.

[The Priority of the Names *Calliste*, *Aglaiia*, and *Calospiza*, and their use in Ornithology. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1895, p. 251.]

We cannot agree with Mr. Stone in his proposal to reject the name *Calliste*, long used for a genus of Tanagers (*v. Cat. B. xi. p. 95*), because in 1791 Poli employed *Callista* for a mollusk. If *Picus* and *Pica* are both retained for birds

(now, as they were by classical writers), why should not *Calliste* be used for a bird and *Callista* for a mollusk? But we are told that, in fact, *Callista* is not really used at all in Conchology, although Mr. Stone thinks that it "should be adopted for the genus now known as *Cytherea*." There seem to be no limits to the "fads" of modern hunters after priority.

31. *Suchetet on Hybrids among Birds.*

[Les Oiseaux Hybrides, rencontrés à l'état Sauvage. Par André Suchetet. Cinquième Partie, Additions et Corrections. Mém. Soc. Zool. France, viii. p. 473.]

The fifth and concluding part of M. Suchetet's 'Oiseaux Hybrides' contains additions and corrections to his valuable account of this important subject, on which he has laboured so long and so well. Part iv. does not appear to have reached us, but part iii. was noticed in 1893 (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 149). We all know how careful M. Suchetet is in endeavouring to obtain correct information in every case and in stating the results of his own examinations.

32. *Trevor-Battye's 'Ice-bound on Kolguev.'*

[Ice-bound on Kolguev, a chapter in the Exploration of Arctic Europe, to which is added a Record of the Natural History of the Island. By Aubyn Trevor-Battye, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c. With numerous Illustrations by J. T. Nettleship, Charles Whymper, and the Author, and three Maps. Royal 8vo. Constable & Co., Westminster, 1895.]

The interesting and well-written narrative of Mr. Trevor-Battye's adventures in Kolguev and among the Samoyeds that frequent that island is dedicated to the President of the B. O. U., and will be much appreciated by all the members thereof. It contains numerous allusions to birds, and "The Goosing" of the native hunters has, as it well deserves, a chapter to itself. Besides this there is a systematic account of the ornithology of the island, with field-notes on all the 47 species included in it. The Passeres are seven in number—the Wheatear, White Wagtail, Red-throated and Meadow-Pipits, the Snow- and Lapland Buntings, and the Shore-Lark. Curiously enough (as the author has confessed to

us below, p. 155), the Curlew-Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*) is omitted in the list, though mentioned in the text (see p. 209). The volume is well printed, well illustrated, and well mapped, and does great credit to all who are concerned in it.

XII.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

WE have received the following letters, addressed “to the Editors” :—

SIRS,—I am much surprised to learn from Mr. Ogilvie Grant’s ‘Game-birds of the British Museum,’ p. 65, and Game-birds, in ‘Allen’s Naturalist’s Library,’ p. 52, that the Ural Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus uralensis*, was first described by Mr. Nazarov. The facts are that, when working with the late Mr. Severtzow, I found some differences between the Capercaillies from Central and Eastern Russia, and in my manuscript-catalogue of the birds of Russia I named the eastern form *Tetrao urogallus*, var. *uralensis*. This name was employed by Mr. Nazarov, my pupil in ornithology, to whom, when he was making the list of Kirgeez birds (‘Recherches zoologiques’ &c.), I communicated both my own list of Russian birds and Severtzow’s list of the birds of the valley of the river Ural, with this bird designated as follows :—

“TETRAO UROGALLUS, var. URALENSIS, Sev. & Menzb.”

A little later, after a careful comparison of Central-Russian Capercaillies with specimens from Eastern Russia, received by me through the kindness of Mr. Lorenz, I deduced a conclusion that the eastern Capercaillie was a good subspecies, and I expressed my idea on this subject in ‘The Ibis’ (1887, p. 303), where for the first time a diagnosis of the bird was published, though many skins were sent abroad previously by Mr. Lorenz under the name “*Tetrao urogallus*, var. *uralensis*, Menzb.”

Hoping that you will be good enough to re-establish the truth by publishing this letter,

Yours &c.,

M. MENZBIER.

University, Moscow,
October 18th, 1895.